

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1436

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IR, PINT

SUBJECT: GOI AND IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD

1. ACCORDING TO MANOUCHEHR GANJI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS, GOI IS ACCELERATING ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN BETTER RELATIONS WITH IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD AND TO ENSURE THAT WHEN THEIR STUDIES ARE COMPLETED MORE OF THEM RETURN HOME. GOI SENT INVITATIONS TO ABOUT 130 IRANIANS STUDYING IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN RECENTLY COMPLETED RESURGENCE PARTY CONGRESS(TEHRAN 4150). ALTHOUGH GANJI CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW HOW STUDENTS WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS HONOR, IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THEIR ACTIVITIES AND COMMENTS HERE THEY WERE NOT RANDOM CROSS-SECTION OF OFTEN HOSTILE IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD.

2. ON MAY 6 THESE STUDENTS HOSTED BANQUET FOR PRIMIN AT WHICH HE URGED THEM TO ABSORB AS MUCH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE AND RETURN TO TAKE PART IN "NATIONAL MOVEMENT AIMED AT REACHING GREAT CIVILIZATION." HEVEYDA TOLD CHEERING STUDENTS THAT ALTHOUGH IT HAD TAKEN EUROPEANS 1000 YEARS TO BUILD THEIR SOCIETIES LEARNING BASIC SCIENTIFIC TRADITIONS OF PERSO-ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION, TODAY'S IRANIAN STUDENTS MUST STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE IN ONLY TEN YEARS. HE SAID EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES, PRESTIGE, A BOOMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMY, AND CLIMATE ALLOWING FREE EXPRESSION OF IDEAS AWAITED THEM UPON RETURN. AS EVIDENCE FOR LATTER, HOVEYDA POINTED TO LIVELY EXCHANGE OF DIVERSE OPINIONS WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED PARTY CONGRESS STUDENTS ATTENDED.

HE SAID RESURGENCE PARTY ORGANIZATION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EVERY COUNTRY WHERE A SINGLE IRANIAN LIVES, AND GOI HOPED TO ARRANGE FOR MORE REGULAR VISITS BY STUDENTS TO IRAN FOR SEMINARS DESIGNED TO KEEP THEM UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

3. ON MAY 7 ONE OF THESE STUDENTS FROM U.S., GOGA KHALATBARI, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR. KHALATBARI SAID HE WAS PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION OF IRANIAN GRADUATES OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND AN OFFICIAL OF PERSIAN-AMERICAN YOUTH SOCIETY. HE WAS DISTURBED THAT SO MANY IRANIAN STUDENTS IN U.S. SUCCUMB TO PROPAGANDA OF MILITANT LEFTIST CONFEDERATION OF IRANIAN STUDENTS AND BECOME HOSTILE TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO FAILURE OF BOTH GOI AND USG TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH STUDENTS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN IRAN. HE SAID HIS ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO REMEDY SITUATION AND HE HIMSELF HAS RADIO PROGRAM IN PERSIAN WHICH STRESSES IRANIAN CULTURE HERITAGE IN EFFORT TO REINFORCE STUDENTS' SENSE OF IRANIAN IDENTITY.

4. KHALATBARI ASKED AMBASSADOR FOR USG SUPPORT FOR THESE EFFORTS AND FOR INCREASE IN NUMBER OF TOP-QUALITY EXCHANGE GRANTEES WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH KHALATBARI'S OBJECTIVES BUT POINTED OUT THAT DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN EMBASSY WAS PROPER PLACE TO SEEK SUCH ASSISTANCE. HE SUGGESTED CU ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND CU/NEA DIRECTOR NEWBERRY AS POINTS OF CONTACT. SINCE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF IRANIAN STUDENTS RETURN IN POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND AFTER STUDYING ABROAD, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL DO WHAT IT APPROPRIATELY CAN TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT. MR. KHALATBARI, WHO SAID HE WORKS CLOSELY WITH CULTURAL SECTION OF IRANIAN EMBASSY, PLANS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

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